



Cyclist Tara Matern demonstrates the safer way to text on the go — while stopped — in Williamsburg.

THUMBS OF FURY

Pol targets texting on bikes, cyclists say he's g2g

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

A southern Brooklyn pol's bid to ban text-messaging while biking is a misguided attempt to score political points in the car-centric district and fundamentally misunderstands the dangers cyclists face, according to bike advocates.

The car critics blasted Councilman Mark Treyger (D-Bensonhurst) for his bill that would make it a crime to tap the coordinates to tonight's party while piloting a bicycle. The activists argue that the legislation is a diversion from the need for police enforcement targeting motorists, who are responsible for the vast majority of road deaths, and for car-slowing measures by the Department of Transportation.

"Legislating over texting while biking is a dangerous distraction from what is actually killing people," said Keegan Stephan, a former Williamsburg resident and activist with the group Right of Way. "This is not just a net zero. It is a net negative because it calls for NYPD and DOT resources that could be used elsewhere."

Treyger said he was inspired to write up the legislation when he saw a distracted cyclist swerve into traffic while text-messaging. The bill, introduced on Nov. 13, would make text-messaging while biking a violation, punishable by a \$50 fine on the first offense if it results in an injury or property damage, and as much as \$200 for subsequent offenses. The law would also mandate that the transportation and police de-



partments come up with a bike-safety education program for offenders to attend.

The legislation has the backing of 13 other Council members, including Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D-Sunset Park) who bikes to work at City Hall and to community meetings around his district, as the New York Daily News reported.

Treyger said his law is in line with Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero campaign to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2024, though he acknowledged that drivers deserve more scrutiny to that end. But bike activists scoffed at the idea that the looming legislation would do anything to help road safety, and said that Treyger should be driven by data, not incidents from his commute.

"I have never had someone come to me and say they injured or struck someone because they were texting while biking," said Steve Vaccaro, a lawyer who specializes in representing cyclists. "If an anecdote was our standard for calling for new legislation we would have countless laws for situations that just don't come up."

Stephan also criticized Treyger for focusing on cyclist behavior when he could be adding bike-insulating infrastructure to his automobile-oriented turf below Pros-



Councilman Mark Treyger, whose district is home to just one stretch of bike lane, is going after distracted cyclists.

hoods from Red Hook to Greenpoint, roughly coinciding with this newspaper's coverage area.

Treyger's legislation is an attempt to close a loophole in a state law that outlaws text-messaging while driving but explicitly applies only to people operating a moving vehicle, leaving bicyclists free to tap away. The motorist-only clause has not stopped police from slapping cyclists with apparently bogus tickets for using their phones on the go. As of Nov. 9, cops had cited cyclists 423 times citywide for using a cellphone while riding, almost twice as many tickets as the 213 written in 2013. The data provided by the Police Department does not specify which law cyclists were cited under, and a police rep declined to specify, but Treyger said the tickets likely lie on shaky legal ground.

"I'd love for the NYPD to point to what law they are using to write those tickets," Treyger said. "If a police officer is taking actions or enforcing laws that don't exist, it is certainly troubling."

Stephan and Vaccaro both acknowledged that text-messaging while biking is dangerous, and Vaccaro praised the creation of a city-backed bike safety program. But both said that if the city is going to crack down on cyclists, other behaviors are more alarming, such as biking while under the influence.

"The procedural aspects are good, but the fundamental thrust of the law is flawed," Vaccaro said. "It would be best to apply it elsewhere."

Human air monitors

They can feel it coming in the air tonight, oh lord

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Greenpoint residents might soon be transformed into scientific researchers just by putting on a necklace.

A technologically minded activist has created an air-pollution detector that he hopes to get locals to wear around their necks in order to create a far-reaching, real-time picture of the toxins floating above the polluted neighborhood.

"This allows the community to get involved and do research," said Michael Heimbinder, inset, a member of the Newtown Creek Alliance and founder of HabitatMap, which builds tools for commu-

**GREAT MOMENTS IN
AIR POLLUTION**
SEE PAGE 18

nity organizing around environmental issues. "It will amplify their voices and the importance of the data they are collecting."

The tool, called Air Casting Greenpoint, is a piece of blue-plastic bling that sniffs the air several times a second and sends the results to an Android phone, which then analyzes the data and sends

Michael Heimbinder hopes to get other Greenpoint residents to wear portable air monitors.

them to an online database. Taken together, the numbers can create snapshot and minute-to-minute heat maps of air pollution. Seeing the results will make participants feel like the effort is worth it, Heimbinder said.

"You can be walking along, and every second, you can see yourself on See AIR on page 18



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Liz Spencer with fabric she dyed using foraged Brooklyn flora at Pratt Institute's Brooklyn Fashion and Design Accelerator in the old Pfizer factory building.

Your design here

Old Pfizer building gets biz incubator

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A Bedford-Stuyvesant designer is turning foraged nut, berry, and flower juice into clothing dyes.

Liz Spencer is rooting around for pokeberry, black walnut, and goldenrod in Prospect Park and other verdant areas around the borough to make red, beige, and yellow custom clothes. She also grows flowers in front of her apartment for their pigments. She has the processes down, but the trick now is trying to figure out how to turn a profit doing it.

"My forte is design and sustainability, but not so much business," she said.

Spencer is one of the young business owners taking part in Pratt Institute's new Brooklyn Fashion and Design Accelerator in the old Pfizer building on

Flushing Avenue.

"I am hoping to get the mentorship I need here to change that," she said.

The program is meant to assist new designers through their crucial early development stages, its head said.

"This is a great opportunity to take young designers and give them a place that they can make their dreams happen," director Debra Johnson said.

The Accelerator had temporarily made its home at the Navy Yard for the past year. In its new, much larger space between Tompkins and Throop avenues it has space for 30 businesses. So far, there are 16, each selected by the project's board based on the feasibility and creativity of its concept, its principals' work ethic, and their portfolio.

Some of the projects on display at See DESIGN on page 16



Photo by Jason Speakman

So hot it turrets!

Jay Street's old firehouse is back in all its blazing glory. Scaffolding that has shrouded the former Brooklyn Fire Department headquarters came down on Wednesday, ending a year of restoration work on the brownstone beauty. The building, which contains 18 below-market-rate apartments, has been in line for a spruce-up since 2010 when the Pratt Area Community Council got a grant to do the job. But red tape at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the city entity that owns the property, slowed progress and work did not begin until August 2013. — Matthew Perlman

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Battle of the bulkhead

Activists angry over view-blocking Bridge Park hotel

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The ventilation machinery and planned bar on the roof of a new hotel in Brooklyn Bridge Park will block the beloved view from the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, in violation of an agreement to keep it pristine, a civic group argues.

The influential Brooklyn Heights Association says the 30-foot bulkhead and under-construction saloon atop the Furman Street structure are clear violations of an eight-year-old agreement to keep the building under the over-look. The civic group griped about the blight on the view in a letter to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation last month, demanding an explanation and a remedy.

“We feel strongly that the primary responsibility for ensuring that the views the community fought hard to protect was, and remains, the primary responsibility of the BBPC and its predecessors,” wrote Alexandra Bowie, president of the 104-year-old community group.

The agreement brokered by the Heights Association in 2006 is affirmed in the park’s General Project Plan, which describes the hotel, now called Pierhouse, as being approximately 100-feet tall. The building now exceeds that limit by approximately 30 feet because of the rooftop equipment and pub, to the chagrin of the Association, members of which love gazing out onto the Brooklyn Bridge and the skyline of the distant island of Manhattan.

“The bulkheads now rise high enough to block the view of stays and cables as well as the view of the Chrysler Building,” says a statement posted on the group’s website. “Our board and public are angered that the new buildings have seriously compromised that iconic, world-class view.”

The group also points to a response to a public com-



Photo by Jason Speakman

Brooklyn Heights activists take issue with the structure on the top rear of this new hotel building, but really the whole thing blocks the view.

ment in the park’s Final Environmental Impact Statement that specifically pledges to keep the rooftop utilities out of sight.

“Any required parapet and mechanical equipment would be included in the proposed building envelope,” the document says, though it is unclear who from the city, state, or the park’s private administration penned the pledge.

As for the bar, in its letter to park administrators the Heights Association asked if removing it could shave feet off the top of the building, especially if it meant the elevator would not have to reach the roof.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation isn’t budging. It insists that the bar was always part of the plan, and that it has to have an elevator to the roof to be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

“The rooftop of the hotel

will include an outdoor bar. An occupiable rooftop is a key component of the hotel program and has been part of the developer’s proposal from the outset,” park president Regina Myer wrote.

Park honchos also maintain that the height limit does not include the bulkhead, and that neighborhood activists knew that all along.

“It was made clear that BBP, based on consultation with Empire State Development Corporation, would permit rooftop mechanical equipment to exceed the 100-foot height limit provided that it fit the definition of a ‘Permitted Obstruction’ in the NYC Zoning resolution,” Myer wrote in response to the community group’s letter.

Myer points to a letter the Heights Association wrote in 2011 “explicitly acknowledging [the bulkhead being exempted from the height limit],

with no mention of any previous agreements made with the BHA.”

“It is our understanding that one of the requirements of the RFP was that no scheme may penetrate the Scenic View plane or be higher than 100 feet exclusive of mechanical equipment,” wrote then-Heights-Association-president Jane McGroarty and then-parks-committee-chairman Donald Fraser.

Executive director Judy Stanton said that no matter what her organization said after the environmental impact statement was drawn up, the document is what should be regulating development in Brooklyn’s front yard.

“The spirit and language of the FEIS was very clear in its intent to preserve the view of the Brooklyn Bridge from midway along the Promenade,” Stanton said. “Nothing the BHA has ever said or done during the period between the FEIS and today should be misunderstood or construed as undermining that intent to preserve or even improve on that view that existed prior to the Pierhouse.”

A member of Stanton’s group summed up its stance this way in a 2005 reaction to the original environmental study:

“Please remember, there are views and then there are views,” Otis Pearsall wrote. “This is one of the world’s best. Let’s not nibble at it.”

A Brooklyn College professor who writes about development said he is not sure what legal weight the final impact statement holds, but added that the real issue is the money and will to battle the deep-pocketed Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation in court.

“My experience has been that what matters is how much money and clout you have to make your case,” Jerome Krase said. “To some degree the legality becomes inventive.”

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Bandit bags senior’s purse on Jay Street

84TH PRECINCT Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

A degenerate stole an elderly woman’s purse as she boarded an Access-A-Ride vehicle on Jay Street on Nov. 7, according to a police report.

The 85-year-old victim said she left her purse and walker on the sidewalk between Concord and Nassau streets as she climbed into the vehicle at 7:15 am. When she turned around to get her things, the bag was gone, cops said.

The woman said her bag contained \$50 in cash, a cellphone, and debit, credit, and insurance cards.

Subterfuge

A sneak stole a woman’s wallet as she boarded a Manhattan-bound C train at High Street on Nov. 3, police said.

The 69-year-old victim said she was boarding a crowded train at 9:25 am when two men bumped into her, then exited the car. After the train pulled away from the station, the woman realized her billfold was gone from her purse, per cops.

The wallet contained \$20 in cash, and debit and credit cards, NYPD officials said.

Batter up

A bat-wielding bandit robbed a teen on Jay Street at Tillary Street on Nov. 4, according to the authorities.

The 15-year-old victim said the galoot approached at 5:30 pm, threatening him with the club.

The lout then reached into the kid’s pocket, took his phone, and took off, police said.

Gang of 400

A group of gangsters robbed a teen of cash, a cellphone, and his pants on Bond Street on Nov. 4, law enforcement officials said.

The 13-year-old victim said he was between Fulton and Livingston streets at 4:05 pm when seven men came up and asked if he was in the 400 gang.

The hoodlums then snatched the phone from his hand, hit him in the shoulder with a cane, and snatched his wallet, which contained \$260, cops said. The toughs also took the teen’s sweatpants, police said.

Zip rip-off

A thief stole a Zip Car whip from a Livingston Street parking lot on Nov. 2, the authorities recounted.

An employee from the company said the trickster came to the lot between Court Street and Boerum Place at 3

am and used a Zip Car membership card to rent a 2014 Nissan Altman.

The car was never returned, and a company representative said the information provided by the guy who rented it was bogus, officers stated.

Steal, interrupted

A would-be burglar was scared off when a Remsen Street resident barged in on him on Nov. 5, according to a report.

The 62-year-old victim, who lives between Hick and Henry streets, said she returned to her home at 9:15 am to find her door open.

As she entered the house she heard footsteps, then she saw the intruder on the first floor, NYPD officials said. The victim startled the crook and he ran upstairs and out the door, cops said. Neighbors chased the foiled fiend to Montague Street, per police.

Basket burgled

A lowlife stole a woman’s purse from the basket of her bike near the corner of Washington and Front streets on Nov. 8, police said.

The 36-year-old victim said she walked away from her ride for a few seconds at 7 pm, and when she came back her bag was gone.

The purse contained a novel, a wool hat, and debit

POLICE BLOTTER



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and credit cards, according to a report.

Fulton maul

A brute beat a man on Fulton Street on Nov. 6, according to the authorities.

Cops found the 41-year-old victim between Fleet Street and Albee Square at 6:15 pm, unconscious and bleeding from the nose and ears, cops said.

Paramedics transported the man to Lutheran Medical Center, where doctors determined he suffered a brain hemorrhage, officers stated.

The victim could not provide police with a description of the suspect, but officers found security footage that shows the assailant, cops said.

88TH PRECINCT Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Bend of thieves

A pair of predators pilfered the cellphone a man was carrying in his back pocket on N. Oxford Walk on Nov. 11, cops said.

The 28-year-old victim said

he was bending over to pick up some bags on the sidewalk between Park and Myrtle avenues at 7:45 pm when the pickpocket snatched his mobile device.

The sneak took off on Park Avenue and turned on to S. Portland Avenue heading towards Fort Greene Park, according to a police report.

The victim then approached a scoundrel he saw standing with the culprit before the theft and asked if he knew the guy, officers recounted.

“Don’t follow us,” the accomplice purportedly warned. He then punched the victim in the face and scrambled down Park Avenue towards Navy Street, NYPD officials stated.

Teen trouble

Cops cuffed two teens who they say tried to rob another youngster waiting for a Myrtle Avenue bus on Nov. 13, a police report states.

The 16-year-old victim said he was at a bus stop between Clinton and Waverly avenues at 4:11 pm when a group of seven to 10 attacked

him. He fought back and the crew took off running on Myrtle, cops said.

Police arrested a 14-year-old nearby and a 17-year-old the next day, according to the authorities.

Shot in the dark

A gunman plugged a man who was standing on the sidewalk of Monument Walk on Nov. 15, police reported.

The 25-year-old victim said he was waiting for a friend in front of a building between Park and Myrtle avenues at 6:55 pm, when a passerby jeered “F--- you” and let off two shots.

The victim caught one slug in the shin, officers said.

Tool time

A bandit boosted a man’s electric bicycle from in front of a Myrtle Avenue building on Nov. 11, police said.

The 22-year-old owner said he locked up his ride between Waverly and Washington avenues at 8:30 pm and returned a half hour later to find it gone. Surveillance video shows the rapskallion riding off down Waverly Avenue, officers stated.

Tool time

Cops arrested a man after they say a worker found him inside of his commercial vehicle on Adelphi Street try-

ing to steal power tools on Nov. 14, according to a police report.

The 31-year-old worker said he returned to his parked ride between Park and Myrtle avenues at 12:40 pm and found the suspect rustling around inside. He flagged down a police officer who confronted the 50-year-old and took him into custody, officers said.

In the back of the squad car, the suspect tried to hide a bag of heroin, cops said. The suspect was supposedly after a screw gun and a grinder, and the worker refused to press charges since nothing was taken, the authorities reported.

Bad company

A couple of cretins stole a bunch of electronics from a man who invited them over to his Myrtle Avenue apartment early in the morning on Nov. 13, cops said.

The 31-year-old victim said he invited the predatory pair back to his apartment between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues at 4 am, then fell asleep.

When he woke up at 7:30 am, his stuff was gone, law enforcement officials said. The treacherous twosome absconded with a few laptops, a cellphone, and an electronic tablet, according to a police report.

Bike snare

Cops arrested a man on Nov. 15 who they say stole a Citi Bike last month from the dock at Fleet and Wiltoughby streets.

Police stopped the 20-year-old suspect near the corner of Pulaski Street and Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant at 10:55 pm, after they say he pedaled the bike through a red light, according to a police report.

Police checked with the bike-share program and found that the suspect had not rented the ride, and that it was last docked in Fort Greene at 10:42 am on Oct. 14, cops said.

Broken up

Police arrested a man who they say tried to break into a Greene Avenue apartment on Nov. 14.

The 25-year-old resident said the suspect was trying to break the lock on the door to her apartment between Grand and Classon avenues at 1:20 am.

She called the cops and officers arrived and arrested the 36-year-old, according to the authorities.

— **Matthew Perlman**

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights Store stickup

Three gun-toting goons robbed a cellphone store that apparently had nothing in stock on 13th Avenue on Nov. 11.

The trio burst into the store at the corner of 70th Street in Dyker Heights at 7:10 pm, police said.

One man flashed a black handgun and yelled “Get back or I’ll shoot,” according to a police report. The robbers demanded phones, but the clerk told them the store didn’t have any, so the trio took \$100 cash and fled, police said.

Big haul

Two guys broke into a 73rd Street home and stole \$55,400 on Nov. 13.

A witness saw two men enter the basement between Eighth Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway in Bay Ridge at 3 pm, a police report states.

Once inside the basement, the pair ransacked the room and took \$400 from a dresser, police said. Then the burglars broke into an apartment above, tore the place apart, and made off with another \$55,000, according to law enforcement sources.

Cheap shots

Three brutes blindsided a man on the corner of 62nd Street and 10th Avenue in Dyker Heights and stole his phone, wallet, and \$50 on Nov. 11.

The stooges ran up behind their 35-year-old victim at 10 pm and smacked him upside the head before stealing his stuff, police said. The total stolen was worth \$1,100, a police report states.

Pummeling

Four fiends beat up and robbed a guy on the corner of Fifth Avenue in Bay Ridge on Nov. 16.

The victim was near Senator Street at 2:35 am when the foursome came up behind him, pushed him to the ground, and kicked the guy, then took his cellphone and headphones, valued at \$580,

police said.

— **Max Jaeger**

78TH PRECINCT Park Slope

Car cash

A thief stole thousands in cash and a passport from a man’s parked car on Fifth Avenue on Nov. 1, police said.

The victim left his vehicle between First and Second streets at about 5 pm and went to dinner, leaving a briefcase containing \$6,000 and a United States passport inside, according to a report.

When he returned a short while later, the luggage was gone along with the loot inside, although the car showed no signs of forced entry, officers stated.

Stole foods

A bandit swiped a shopper’s wallet from her bag as she shopped at the Whole Foods Market at Third Street and Third Avenue on Nov. 9, law enforcement officials said.

The woman was strolling the aisles around 1:50 pm when the stealthy pickpocket extracted her wallet, which contained a debit card and \$160 in cash, according to a report.

Bags to riches

A daring crook took the air-bags from a parked car on Sixth Street on Nov. 9, without activating the protective pillows, according to a report.

The victim parked the 2001 Bavarian Motor Works buggy near Prospect Park West and returned to find the driver’s-side window smashed and the equipment taken, cops said.

Security flaw

A bandit boosted a custom bicycle from an apartment building on Fourth Avenue on Nov. 6, according to the authorities.

The victim locked his Surly Long Haul Truckster to a pole inside the lobby of the building between Garfield Place and Carroll Street, but he said the front door to the lobby does not close all the way.

— **Noah Hurowitz**

94TH PRECINCT Greenpoint–Northside Bad dad

A meanie attacked and robbed his daughter on Sutton Street on Nov. 11, cops reported.

The victim said she was between Nassau and Norman avenues at 9 am when her fiendish father approached and demanded cash.

When the 30-year-old refused, the scoundrel pushed her, punched her, and grabbed her purse, which contained her cash and cigarettes, police said. The victim related where officers could find her dastardly dad, but they have not yet cuffed him, a report states.

Phone it in

Officers arrested a man after they say he chased down a teenager and tried to steal his phone on Dupont Avenue on Nov. 16.

The 17-year-old victim said he was walking with a friend near Franklin Street at 2:10 am when the suspect ran up and asked for help. The accused then tried to snatch the mobile device out of the victim’s hand, cops reported.

“Give me that phone. That is mine,” the accused allegedly said.

The victim fled and called 911 as the suspect chased him, law enforcement officials recounted. Police showed up, cuffed the man, and charged the man with robbery.

Iron in the fire

A brute attacked a man with a tire iron as he was sitting in his car on Nassau Avenue on Nov. 15, officers stated.

The victim said that he was sitting in his car near Jewel Street at 4 am when the tough suddenly ran towards him with the tool in his hands. The victim got out of his vehicle and the lowlife bashed him in the back of his head, cops said.

Destructive

Someone ran off with a laptop from a N. Seventh Street construction site on Nov. 10, officers stated.

The victim said that he left a laptop on the desk of his workspace at the site between Havemeyer and Roebling streets at 10:50 am.

When he came back at 11:30 am, the computer was gone, cops said.

Several people have access to the construction site, according to the victim.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

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Ignoble end for ‘oldest bar’

Landlords evict historic Carroll Gardens watering hole

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

City marshals seized the supposed oldest bar in Brooklyn on Nov. 14, closing the latest chapter in the tavern’s troubled recent history.

The takeover of Goldenrod in Carroll Gardens returned the storefront to its owners after barkeep James McGown made big changes inside without clearing them with the city, according to a lawyer for the landlords.

“He breached his lease by making substantial alterations without getting consent from the building owner or the Department of Buildings,” said Donald Bernstein, who represents owners John and Kim Esposito.

McGown opened Goldenrod at Court Street and Fourth



Place in August of 2013, six months after declaring bankruptcy and closing the bar in the same spot known for 20 years as P.J. Hanley’s.

The embattled businessman had clashed with his landlords in court even before the bar’s name change, paying rent only sporadically, Bernstein said. In court filings, McGown has blamed stealing managers and delayed building repairs for his cash-flow problems.

The alleged illegal alterations would not have been the first. The building has an outstanding violation for unpermitted work dating to 2007, property records show.

The building owners began eviction proceedings shortly after the bar reopened as Goldenrod and Bernstein claims

McGown ignored a court order to keep paying rent. The marshals who swooped in last week changed the locks, spelling the end for McGown, Bernstein said.

“This has been going on a long time, but he is done,” Bernstein said.

The bar first opened in 1874 as Ryan’s, and managed to survive Prohibition as a speakeasy with covered windows and hidden entrances. John Hanley bought the pub in the 1950s and ran the place until he sold it to his nieces in 1995. They kept the bar going for a decade before selling the business to McGown in 2005.

McGown owns many other businesses in the neighborhood and his financial woes and tangled legal battles have earned him the moniker of “bankruptcy baron” from the finance journal Crain’s New York Business.

A number listed for McGown rings to a message saying that it is disconnected.

Draft of the future

On Monday, find out how Gowanus residents want their ‘hood to take shape

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

A Gowanus pol who spent a good chunk of the year soliciting ideas for the neighborhood’s future will present the highlights on Nov. 24.

The big reveal will start a new chapter in the Bridging Gowanus process announced by Councilman Brad Lander (D–Gowanus) last year. Lander says the brainstorming sessions, and the resulting document he is creating, are supposed to help neighbors come up with a list of demands for a rezoning before city bean counters up and do it themselves.

“In the past, the city would propose a rezoning and a neighborhood would react by asking for things in exchange,” Lander said. “The idea here is to work together to put together a comprehensive plan that instead

begins with the community’s needs.”

The process began with a secret meeting between pols and activists in the summer of 2013.

The idea is to come up with a list of demands to govern any future large-scale development, Lander said.

One of the main priorities that has come out of the meetings has been the protection of manufacturing in the area, possibly by mandating that new residential projects preserve or create industrial space, according to the pol.

Other items include improving transportation and environmental infrastructure, he said.

The Nov. 24 is another step in a long process, Lander said, and though the presentation will condense all of the past year’s meetings, it is not

the final prescription.

“This is a framework, not a plan,” he said. “An important challenge here is that there are so many actors. The city, state, and federal government all have central roles to play, and we have to take them together and coordinate, especially on infrastructure.”

When Lander comes up with a final set of recommendations, the next step is to get city agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of City Planning on board.

Lander has described Bridging Gowanus as a way to avoid the hodgepodge construction of apartment buildings, which would require individual zoning variances for each, but anti-development activists aren’t all satisfied. Protesters disrupted the final



Councilman Brad Lander will present the findings on Nov. 24.

Bridging Gowanus meeting in June, charging that Lander is trying to push his agenda while making a show of gathering community input. They said they would hold their own series of Gowanus planning meetings but that fizzled out after the first one in July.

One rabble-rouser said Bridging Gowanus looks good on paper but isn’t in practice.

“It’s a noble effort, but there are people with viable ideas who are not being listened to,” said Joseph Alexiou, a writer who has a studio in Gowanus and organized the protest. “We’ve seen that they know what they wanted to talk about before the community dialogue even started.”

Residents who cannot attend the Nov. 24 meeting have until the end of the year to make comments on the Bridging Gowanus website.

The city solicited neighborhood input for a possible rezoning over the course of three years starting in 2007, but pressed pause when the federal government declared the Gowanus Canal a Superfund site by the federal government in 2010, beginning an environmental cleanup process that is set to take at least until 2024.

Bridging Gowanus, PS 32 (317 Hoyt St. between President and Union streets in Gowanus, www.bridginggowanus.com.) Nov. 24 at 6:30 pm.



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EVERYTHING MATTERS

DA: Send latest bridge climber to the slammer

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The French tourist who illegally climbed one of the Brooklyn Bridge’s suspension cables needs to be sent up the river, Brooklyn’s top law enforcement official said on Tuesday.

District Attorney Ken Thompson is hitting the man, Yonathan Souid, with four separate charges for the jaunt, which Thompson says put people in danger. A Russian sightseer got off with a sentence of community service and a fine for a similar excursion in August, but Thompson pledged to try to make Souid serve hard time.

“This defendant’s foolish and unlawful conduct is a breach of security and a danger to himself and others. It will not be tolerated,” the lawman said in a statement. “This is not a game and we will be seeking jail time.”

Souid posted \$7,000 in bail on Monday, and his attorney James Meadows said prosecutors are blowing the adventure out of proportion.

“He was acting as a foolish tourist,” Meadows said. “He didn’t know it would cause such an uproar.”

Souid was visiting New York on a weeklong religious trip, Meadows said. He went for a walk on the bridge on Nov. 16 at 12:29 pm, and supposedly decided to climb one of the supports to take some photos, according to prosecutors.

A police officerspottedSouid and took him into custody, documents state, though it is unclear exactly how the collar took place. The District Attorney’s Office charged him with reckless endangerment, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, and a violation of the administrative code that “prohibits climbing, jumping or suspending oneself from structures.”

This is the third instance of foreign nationals climbing the iconic span in recent months. A pair of German artists claim to have climbed the 276-foot towers back in July in order



Photo by Jason Speakman

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

to replace the bridge’s American flags with hand-sewn, all-white versions to honor bridge designer John Roebling. The following month, police arrested Russian tourist Yaroslav Kolchin after he strolled up a cable to the top of the Brooklyn-side tower to take some cellphone photos.

Meadows said the city should have beefed up security on the bridge after these incidents, and said if they did his client never would have performed his high-wire act.

“If you’re going to point fingers, you should point them at the NYPD,” he said.

Police briefly deployed counterterrorism officers to the iconic span following the flag switcheroo, and the NYPD’s golf-cart-like Inter-

ceptors have been stationed on the bridge walkway in recent months.

Responding to the latest incident, state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D–Brooklyn Heights) and Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D–Greenpoint) are introducing legislation that would raise the penalties for people who trespass on critical infrastructure such as the Brooklyn Bridge. The bill would bump the charge up to a Class A misdemeanor that carries a maximum sentence of one year in the hoosegow.

The proposal comes on the heels of similar legislation introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer (D–New York) in October, which would make the same behavior a federal crime carrying a maximum penalty

(Above) District Attorney Ken Thompson, center in this file photo, is throwing the book at the French tourist who strolled up a Brooklyn Bridge cable. (Left) The incident in July where artists replaced the flags on the top of the bridge embarrassed police.

of five years in prison.

At a press conference announcing the proposed state legislation, Borough President Adams said Schumer’s bill will likely be held up in Washington and that something needs to be done now.

“The reality is that we have gridlock in Washington,” Adams said. “And this is an important local issue.”

Adams is no fan of the Brooklyn Bridge stunts. In July, he offered a \$5,000 reward for information about the white flags and called the prank a “terrorist act.” He offered another stern rejoinder on Tuesday.

“If you come to New York and walk on the walkway you will have a great vacation,” he said. “But if you trespass, you’ll have a longer incarceration.”

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Right turn!

Artists create flip-books for Boerum Hill exhibition

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This art show is going to make people flip!

Boerum Hill gallery and gift shop Grumpy Bert is hosting an exhibition of artist-designed flip-books from Nov. 22-Dec. 28, and the space's owner said he can hardly wait to see the pages start turning.

"Flip-books have a weird magic power," said Grumpy Bert himself, Albert Chau. "They're mesmerizing."

Each of the pieces in the show utilizes a little machine called a FlipBookKit, which rapidly flips through a series of images using either a motor or hand crank, creating a simple animation. The exhibit includes works from more than 40 artists, each of whom have created a short moving picture inside one of the small cubes.

The California company that makes FlipBookKits produced the show to see how far artists could push the boundaries of their product, while offering in-

ART

The FlipBookKit Show at Grumpy Bert [82 Bond St. between State Street and Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (347) 855-4849, www.grumpybert.com], Nov. 22-Dec. 28. Opening Nov. 22, 7 pm-10 pm. Free.

spiration to potential customers. Viewers who find their creative switch flipped on by the exhibition will be able to purchase a FlipBookKit from Grumpy Bert during the show.

One participating artist who has taken the FlipBookKit concept and run with it is Crown Heights resident Nate Bear, who customized his cube to look like an old-school arcade machine.

"It was really fun to design an object like this," he said.

Bear said he used to make flip books as a kid, before computer animations such as GIFs became common-place. But back



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Art-cade: Crown Heights artist Nate Bear shows his flip-book, "Stomp Bros. vs. Nom Nom," which will be part of "The FlipBookKit Show" at Grumpy Bert.

then, he had to make them by hand, one frame at a time, using Post-it notes.

"That was all I could do," he said. "I would draw on those stacks of yellow sticky paper."

Brandon Sines, who works out of a

studio in Bushwick, used the show as an opportunity to animate his long-time character Frank Ape.

"It's all about finding cool new ways to bring him to life," Sines said. "Seeing Frank move is really fun."

PARTY

Stick 'em up

Art is dead — or it will be after this show is done with it.

A local event organizer is creating a giant art installation that is made specifically to be pummeled into submission and destroyed in one stress-relieving afternoon. "Beat It," which will take place at Littlefield in Gowanus on Nov. 22, was inspired by real life, explained creator Jo Firestone.

"After a break up, I really wanted to hit a person, but I knew that was illegal," she said. "I said to myself that I wished there was a place you could hit things and not have any consequences."

Firestone is building a variety of destructible art for the afternoon, including hanging sculptures and several pinatas, all of which audience members will be able to smash to pieces with foam bats. All the while, a DJ will spin songs about beating things.

This is not Firestone's first eccentric event. She is also one of the brains behind Punderdome 3000 — a bar contest based on creating puns, A Hastily Written Masterpiece Starring the Audience — a musical theater series featuring karaoke by audience members, and the Inner Beauty Pageant — which is exactly what it sounds like.

"Beat It" will also feature a self-defense instructor, who will teach participants how to get the most out of their strikes — both at the art show and on the street.

"I always try to make it upbeat and funny, but it's a serious subject," said Laurel Leckert, an instructor at Traditional Okinawan Karate of Brooklyn in Bushwick, who will be teaching the class in a corner of the venue. "This is a fun and participatory way to practice hitting stuff."

Hitting other participants, however, will not be allowed.

"I hope that people do not hit each other and that people feel relaxed afterward and a bit relieved of their pre-Thanksgiving angst," said Firestone.

"Beat It" at Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, www.littlefieldnyc.com). Nov. 22 at 1 pm. Free.

— Danielle Furfaro

TALKS

Bang on

The spontaneous combustion rate of Spinal Tap drummers is far above the world average.

Brooklyn's own resident expert on the mysterious phenomenon says that people igniting from the inside and then burning to their death happens at a rate of far less than one in a million. So it is unlikely that it would happen to your drummer, let alone a series of drummers.

"It is not mythological, like a unicorn," said art historian and Greenpointer Karen Bachmann.

"It actually does happen, just not very often."

Bachmann will give a presentation called "Charred Remains: Spontaneous Human Combustion and You" at the Morbid Anatomy Museum in Gowanus on Nov. 24. The presentation will look at the history of people automatically going alight.

"I am just presenting it at one of the odder phenomenon in history," said Bachmann, who is this month's resident scholar at the museum.

No one knows exactly why people burn up from the inside. It may be an excess of electrical current in the body or it might be from drumming too fast.

Bachmann, a jewelry and art history teacher at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Pratt Institute, said she is most intrigued by the fact that subjects who have combusted leave behind their limbs — while their head and torso are reduced to ash.

"The fact that they leave their hands and feet behind is, for me, the creepy fascination," she said.

"Charred Remains: Spontaneous Human Combustion and You" at Morbid Anatomy Museum [424A Third Ave. at Seventh Street in Gowanus, (347) 799-1017, www.morbidanatomy.com]. Nov. 24 at 8 pm. \$8.

— Danielle Furfaro



Photo by Stefanie Giovannini

Super Sonic sound

Guitar vet teams up with Kim Gordon

By Robert Ham
for The Brooklyn Paper

No one knows how much longer Loren Connors can continue to play the guitar.

The 65-year-old Brooklyn Heights resident was diagnosed in 1992 with Parkinson's disease, and he has since been doing everything possible to keep performing and writing as the ailment continues to affect him.

"Doctors haven't told me anything negative yet," Connors said. "I just have to stop breaking bones. Parkinson's tends to

make you fall. I broke my wrist, then my hip, and last December, my shoulder got a multiple fracture. Used to be able to throw a baseball real good, but can't do that anymore. I can still play guitar though, so that's all that really matters."

The disease has not dulled his creative spirit one bit. Since the diagnosis, Connors has recorded a wealth of material that includes albums of Irish folk, darkly-colored electric blues, and plenty of experimental works that are more free-form and noisy.

He also tries to perform as much as he is able, either solo, with his partner Suzanne Lang-

MUSIC

Loren Connors and Kim Gordon at Issue Project Room [110 Livingston St. between Boerum Place and Court Street in Downtown (718) 330-0313, www.issueprojectroom.org]. Dec. 3 at 8 pm. \$20.

ille, or collaborating with any number of like-minded artists — including Kim Gordon, the former Sonic Youth co-founder with whom he will play an improvised set at Issue Project Room Downtown on Dec. 3.

"I like playing solo because

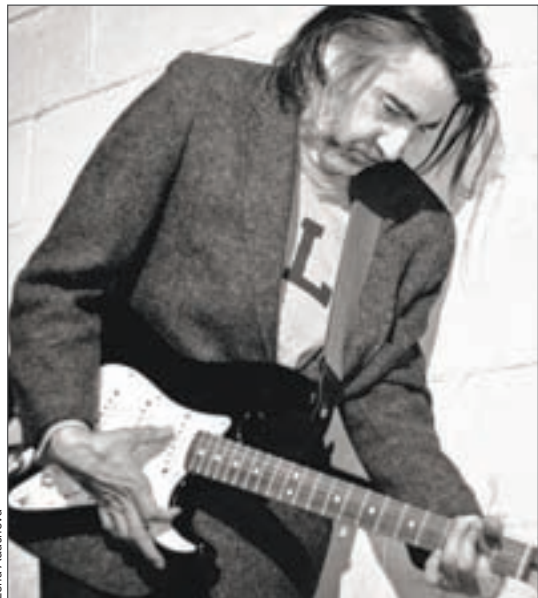
I go places I don't expect," he said. "I like playing with other people because it creates different colors and moods, and sometimes that affects my future solo playing."

The problem that Connors runs into with live performance is making sure he is physically able to play the way he wants to. The key is the right medication at the right time, he said.

"It's all about pill timing," he said. "They have pills that help a lot, but they wear off. I have to time it just right."

Connors still has plenty of creative juice left in the tank, but he tries to remain pragmatic. When asked about the coming year, he would only mention the promise of new music and reissues of some older recordings. Beyond that, his outlook is simple.

"I don't think about the future," he said. "I just do what I do."



Six-stringer: Loren Connors will team up with Kim Gordon at Issue Project Room on Dec. 3.



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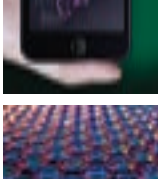
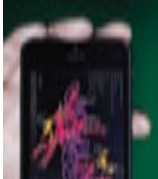

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
Nov. 21

A chorus line

No showtunes for this kids choir! The Brooklyn Youth Chorus teams up with the Brooklyn Academy of Music for an ambitious-sounding project titled "Black Mountain Songs." The group will perform tunes by eight big-name composers, including the National guitarist Bryce Dessner, all inspired by North Carolina experimental liberal arts school Black Mountain College.

7:30 pm at BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100, www.bam.org]. \$20–\$40.

SATURDAY
Nov. 22

Save the last dance

Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance is getting the boot from its Fulton Street studio (to make way for luxury apartments, of course), so it is staging a show to raise funds for a new location. Students and teachers will perform dancehall, hip-hop, and samba, amongst other styles, followed by a dance party with live drumming.

7:30 pm at Cumbe [558 Fulton St. at Flatbush Avenue Extension in Fort Greene, (718) 935–9700, www.cumbedance.com], Entry by donation.

SUNDAY
Nov. 23

Market-ing

Yes, it is that time of the year already — holiday shopping season. Get it all done early and in one place at Industry City. The manufacturing complex is hosting two big holiday markets this weekend — the American Field market, which will focus on red, white, and blue artisans, and the Made in Brooklyn market, which is exactly what it sounds like.

10 am–6 pm at Industry City [274 36th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, www.industrycity.com]. Free.

MONDAY
Nov. 17

Incredible edibles

Chew on this. Two Truths and a Lie is a storytelling night where only some of the stories are true, and it is up to the audience to figure out fact from fiction. This edition's title is "What's on the Menu? Stories About Memorable Meals," so that funny tale about eating a Whopper could, in fact, be a whopperper.

8 pm at Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302–1180, www.cameony.net]. \$5.

WEDESDAY
Nov. 26

Let the wookiee win

Dreading Thanksgiving with your crazy family? Hey, it could be worse — you could be a Skywalker. Give thanks that you are not the estranged child of an evil space dictator by attending the Loud Mouthed Ladies of Trivia's "Star Wars" quiz night. Hell, bring your relatives along and together, you can rule the Macri Park as father and son.

7 pm at Macri Park [462 Union Ave. between Conselyea Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–4999, www.macripark.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, NOV. 21

ART, "BIRTH CULTURE": Photographer Alice Proujansk's documents the ways different cultures regard birth. Free. 10 am–6 pm. United Photo Industry [111 Front St. between Washington and Adams streets in DUMBO, (718) 215–9075], www.unit-edphotoindustries.com.

ART, "GRAFFITI": Solo exhibition by Frank Morrison. Free. 2–7 pm. House of Art Gallery [408 Marcus Garvey Blvd. between Halsey and Macon streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 663–8195], www.hoagallery.com.

MUSIC, "WAYFINDERS": Holcombe Walker presents his theatrical song-cycle, focused on the human exploration of space, identity, and death. \$20. 7:30 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, WILD ARROWS, LAVACHILD, TRUTHERS: \$10 (\$8). 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302–1180], www.cameony.net.

MUSIC, BUGS IN THE DARK, HAYBABY: \$8. 9 pm. Union Pool [484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609–0484], www.union-pool.com.

THEATER, "LA MEDEA": A new dance-musical adaptation of Euripides' classic from Yara Travieso. \$14 (\$10 advance). 7:30 pm. BRIC Arts Media House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683–5621], www.bricartsmedia.org.

THEATER, "TRISTAN AND YSEULT": Kneehigh Players present an adaptation of the play. \$30. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254–8779], www.stanswarehouse.org.

THEATER, "IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA": LoftOpera presents Gioachino Rossini's "The Barber of Seville." \$30. 8 pm. The Green Building [452 Union St. between Bond Street and the Gowanus Canal in Cobble Hill, (718) 522–3363], www.loftopera.com.

THEATER, "TAMBURLAINE": Christopher Marlowe play about a Scythian shepherd who becomes king. \$55–\$100. 7 pm. Theatre for a New

DUKE-ING IT OUT: Duke and Temple will face off at the 2014 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic at Barclays Center Nov. 21 and 22.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, NOV. 21

SPORTS, COACHES VS. CANCER CLASSIC: Basketball tournament featuring Duke, Stanford, Temple, and UNLV. \$15–\$81.50. 7 pm.

SAT, NOV. 22

SPORTS, COACHES VS. CANCER CLASSIC: 7 pm. See Friday, Nov. 22.

MON, NOV. 24

SPORTS, PROGRESSIVE LEGENDS CLASSIC: Basketball tournament with Villanova, Michigan, VCU, and Oregon. \$15–\$500. 7 pm.

TUE, NOV. 25

SPORTS, PROGRESSIVE LEGENDS CLASSIC: 7:30 pm. See Monday, Nov. 24.

FRI, NOV. 28

SPORTS, BARCLAYS CENTER CLASSIC: Basketball tournament featuring Virginia, Rutgers, Vanderbilt, and La Salle. \$35.50–\$250. 7 pm.

SAT, NOV. 29

SPORTS, BARCLAYS CENTER CLASSIC: 7 pm. See Friday, Nov. 28.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

Audience, Polonsky Shakespeare Center [262 Ashland Pl. between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (212) 229–2819], www.tfana.org.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A GIRL: An evening celebrating the power of girls, with a screening of short film "Poder!" a panel discussion, and performances by youth poets. Free. 6 pm. Restoration Plaza [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636–6996], www.restorationplaza.org.

FILM, THE WILLIAMSBURG INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL: \$13. 7 pm. Wythe Hotel [8 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 460–8000], www.willfilm.org.

SAT, NOV. 22

ART, "CHARACTER FLAWS": Anya Davidson exhibits 50 ink and marker character drawings of imaginary creatures and real people. Free. 1–6 pm. Tomato House [301 Saratoga Ave. between Atlantic Pacific and Dean streets in Brownsville, (646) 801–7783], www.tomatohouse.org.

MUSIC, BLACK VIOLIN: \$15. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, Z&A, SNO MOON, DANIELLE CARDONA, HEARTBREAK: \$10 (\$8). 7 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230–5740], www.therockshopny.com.

MUSIC, EREL PILO: 7:30 pm. Roots Cafe [639 Fifth Ave. at 18th Street in Park Slope, (615) 419–7877], www.rootsbrooklyn.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 15

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Published weekly at
1 Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718) 260–2500

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Law and recorder

Photographer captures U.S. Marshals

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it a marshal art project. Cobble Hill photographer Brian Finke spent three-and-a-half years following members of the United States Marshals Service on the job, snapping photos of the law enforcement agency tasked with rounding up the country’s most dangerous fugitives. Now the shutterbug is releasing his images as a book, titled “U.S. Marshals,” which he will launch at PowerHouse Arena in Dumbo on Nov. 21.

During the years he spent shooting on and off for the project, Finke had the opportunity to do ride-alongs with on-duty marshals as they located fugitives, laid in wait, and ensared their marks. A lot of that time was spent sitting in the back of a sports utility vehicle, he said, but after the waiting came moments of intense action, with Finke following right behind the marshals as they charged



On the road again: Photographer Brian Finke.

into danger, guns drawn. “It was awesome,” said Finke. “It was real adrenaline junkie stuff.”

Finke worked on the project in between other freelance work, and had the chance to photograph marshals in cities across the country. In Los Angeles, Finke said he witnessed marshals busting down a door to arrest a woman wanted for human trafficking. In Las Vegas, he snapped away as mar-

shals rounded up wanted sex offenders. And in the border region around Brownsville, Texas, he tagged along as the marshals intercepted a pair of fugitive brothers highailing it to Mexico.

Finke has done several other projects with a tunnel vision focus on one industry. He has previously profiled flight attendants, construction workers, football players, and cheerleaders. “U.S. Mar-

BOOKS

Brian Finke and “U.S. Marshals” at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. Nov. 21 at 7 pm. Free.

shals” provided Finke with an opportunity for another singularly-focused project — this time with even more guns than his bodybuilder photo series.

“I like being very obsessive about one thing and exhausting it over the period of a few years,” Finke said.

At the book launch, Finke will be joined by his pal Cameron Welch, who is also a marshal. It was through Welch that Finke first got the idea for his project.

“I had always wanted to do a story about how we enforce ourselves as a country,” he said. “The marshals seemed pretty badass, just going out there and getting the bad guys.”

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Slurred speeches!

Writers to give booze-fueled TED-style talks

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

PowerPoint presentations usually drive people to drink, not the other way around.

A bunch of brainy luses are picking up the pint glass and dropping some knowledge at an event called “TEDxxx: Ideas Worth Dreading” (that’s “xxx” like a jug of hooch, not a porno flick). The show, which will take place at Williamsburg bar Videology on Nov. 29, is a mash-up between the popular TED lecture series, where experts give brief talks on interesting science and culture topics, and the web series “Drunk History,” where historians get blasted and try to recount a historical events. But the event’s creator said he wants to sidestep the inaccuracies that plague “Drunk History,” and hopes people will walk away from “TEDxxx” smarter than when they came in.

“It’s a mix of spectacle and actual ideas—I don’t think this would work if it wasn’t both of those things,” said writer, funny-man, and Bushwickian Eric Thurm. “I hope people will come out of it having learned something — by accident.”

Liquored-up writers from



Plas-TED: “TEDxxx”organizer Eric Thurm in front of a PowerPoint presentation posing perhaps the most important question of our time: “Turn Down for What?”

TALKS

“TEDxxx: Ideas Worth Dreading” at Videology [308 Bedford Ave, at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, www.videology.info]. Nov. 29 at 9:30 pm. Free.

the likes of Vice, Slate, and Jezebel will wax philosophical on tongue-in-cheek topics such as “Pigeon Culture: Empathy and Advocacy for NYC’s Most Imperiled Community,” and “Get Off My D---: How Masculinist Fashion Trends Like Health Goth and Athleisure are Pillaging the Streets and Destroying America’s Youth.”

As with all good TED talks, the lecturers will be aided by public speakers’ second best friend (after booze) — PowerPoint presentations. Cheesy spinning text effects and glitter transitions are not only inherently funny, but the medium allows the speakers to insert a bunch of jokes into their presentations ahead of time — just in case they down a few too many pints to nail the actual delivery, Thurm said.

“They’re the most important thing I think — no matter what else happens, even if you’re not funny, the PowerPoint has built-in jokes,” he said.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

I love the Manhattan cocktail, and I've learned to make it just the way I like.

But now, if I order one at a bar, it doesn't taste right.

So... can you make me something like a Manhattan?

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Erv's on Beekman [2122 Beekman Pl. at Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (718) 662-8813]. Open daily, 6 pm–1 am.



At the coalface: Andrew Blackwell with a crew of coal mine workers in Shanxi province, China.

What a trash talker

Park Sloper gives lecture on ‘pollution tourism’

By Colin Mixson
for The Brooklyn Paper

You’ve spent winter on the Gowanus, now try summer in Chernobyl! Park Slope journalist, author, and self-proclaimed “pollution tourist” Andrew Blackwell is slated to speak at the

next edition of bar-based science lecture series Empiricist League at Union Hall in Park Slope on Nov. 25. In his talk, Blackwell — whose latest book is titled “Visit Sunny Chernobyl: And Other Adventures in the World’s Most Polluted Places” — will recount his adventures travelling to the planet’s most

TALKS

“Empiricist League: Apocalypse” at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718)638-4400, www.unionhallnyc.com] Nov. 25 at 8 pm. \$10 (\$8 advance).

notorious cesspools, ash heaps, and irradiated exclusion zones, all while attempting to convey the sunny-side of life in the dumps, he said.

“The idea for ‘Visit Sunny Chernobyl’ was to lay out the story with irony and humor — it being a sort of joke about going to ruined places in an attempt to find them interesting and beautiful,” said Blackwell. “But I really drank my own Kool-Aid, and found it very easy, with a little holding my nose, to fall in love with these despoiled places.”

“Visit Sunny Chernobyl” begins near the site of the titular Ukrainian power plant, which the author described as the “gateway drug” of pollution tourism. See **TRASH** on page 15

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 12

MUSIC, RAYA BRASS BAND AND LA CUMBIAMBA ENEYE: \$10. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

SUN, NOV. 23

THEATER, “A BRONX TALE”: Chazz Palminteri brings his one-man play to brooklyn for one night only. \$30 – \$40. 3 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MORBID ANATOMY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND PARTY: Activities include tours, short lectures, taxidermy and hairwork demonstrations, screenings by filmmaker in residence Ronni Thomas, and an after-party. **Free.** 11 am–10 pm. Morbid Anatomy Museum [424 Third Ave. at Seventh Street in Gowanus, (347) 799–1017], www.morbidanatomy-museum.org.

READING, MARK O’CONNELL: “Modern Brides & Modern Grooms” book launch and signing with the author. **Free.** 4–6 pm. Wythe Hotel [8 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 460–8000], www.wythehotel.com.

MON, NOV. 24

COMEDY, DIRTY HOE MONDAYS: Comedy open night. Comics are required to purchase an item from the bar for seven minutes on stage. **Free.** one drink minimum. 6:30pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

READING, JENNY VOLVOVSKI, JULIA ROTHMAN, MATT LAMOTHE: Launching their book “The Who, the What, and the When: 65 Artists Illustrate the Secret Sidekicks of History.” **Free.** 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

FILM, “SHOCK WAVES”: Screening of the 1977 zombie movie, with a Q&A with director Ken Wiederhorn. \$16. 9:30 pm. Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384–3980], www.nitehawkcinema.com.

TUES, NOV. 25

MUSIC, ROBERT RANDOLPH AND THE FAMILY BAND: With special guests. \$15. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

READING, LANCE SCOTT WALKER AND PETER BESTE: The launch of “Houston Rap.” **Free.** 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

MOVIE TRIVIA: Six rounds, including famous movie quotes, not so famous movie quotes, and Nicolas Cage quotes. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

WED, NOV. 26

MUSIC, ROBERT RANDOLPH AND THE FAMILY BAND: With special guests. \$15. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, THE KIN, SOPHIE AND THE BOM BOMS: \$12–\$15. 7:30 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486–5400], www.musicallofwilliamsburg.com.

TRIVIATRYST: Teams of up to six people can win prizes of up to \$50. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230–5740], www.therockshopny.com.

THURS, NOV. 27

KEN SIEGLEMAN’S POETRY OUTREACH: Anthony Vigorito hosts a night of poetry featuring guest poets each week. For teens and adults. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Barnes and Noble [267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832–9066], www.barnesandnoble.com.

COMEDY, FREESTANDING STANDUP: Weekly comedy series with local talent and lots of hilarity. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453–6343], www.goodbye-blue-monday.com.

FRI, NOV. 28

COMEDY, LIVING ROOM SHOW: Featuring comics Lance Weiss, Nore Davis, and Kareem Green. **Free.**



Bandit prince of Persia: John Douglas Thompson stars in the title role of Theatre for a New Audience’s production of “Tamburlaine.”

8 pm. Postmark Cafe [326 Sixth St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope].

MUSIC, RUNAWAY DOROTHY: **Free.** 8:30 pm. Hill Country Barbecue [345 Adams St. at Willoughby

Street, (718) 885–4608], www.hillcountrybk.com.
MUSIC, AKIM FUNK BUD-DHA’S HIP-HOP HOLIDAY: **Free.** 9 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

SAT, NOV. 29

MUSIC, MORIA, AIR FOR ANTS, PLEISTOCENE, BETHLEHEM STEEL: \$8. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

COMEDY, ANDY KINDLER — LIVE AND IMPERSONAL: \$12 (\$10 advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TRASH...

Continued from page 14

ism. The residual radioactivity within the roughly 1,000-square miles of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone is still at dangerous levels, but the evacuation that occurred following the disaster left a void that was filled virtually overnight by foliage and wild beasts, transforming one of the most polluted places on Earth into an unlikely nature preserve, Blackwell said.

“It’s a good place to get in touch with how nature and pollution coexist and interact with each other,” he said. “It demonstrates how

a place can be horribly polluted and compromised, but really beautiful in a wild and natural way.”

In his further travels of the world’s septic systems, Blackwell transitioned from exploring the relationship between nature and pollution, to discovering the way mankind has learned to live amongst the filth. In New Delhi, India, Blackwell visited the Yamuna River, which pollution has reduced to a veritable sewage line.

“There are some people who are going to be grossed out when they cross over the Gowanus Canal,” he said. “I’ve met people whose job is to wade through the river in New Delhi, which is almost entirely sewage water, and drag their hands through the muck, hoping to find some salvage they can sell.”

But regardless of whether you are sailing through the Great Pacific garbage patch or shopping in Kings Plaza, we all have a relationship with pollution, and recognizing that is a good way to start challenging it, Blackwell said.

“I believe in all the common sense things of having a less wasteful and a less-toxic society, but I think those things would come about a little more easily if we were sharing our pollution equitably,” he said. “In China, so much of their manufacturing is tied in with our own economy, going there is like a family visit with your own pollution.”

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Jay-maker

Road-safety group wants overhaul of disaster street

By Zach Williams
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn’s hairiest road-way for cyclists needs more signs, longer pedestrian crossing times, a two-way bike path, and a shelter area for pedestrians caught in the middle of Tillary Street, according to road-safety activists.

Jay Street, which readers of this paper voted as having the scariest bike lane in Brooklyn in 2012, is still a mess, despite a recent repaving and subsequent new paint job, the car-critic group Transportation Alternatives charges. The 17-block thoroughfare was the site of 75 crashes this year, city records show, and the group is now pushing for an overhaul that it says will make the street safer. Somebody certainly needs to do something to address the chaos,

the administrator of a local community board said.

“Pretty much everybody who uses Jay Street is guilty of one infraction or another,” said Community Board 2 district manager Robert Perris. “Anything that can bring order to Jay Street would most likely be welcome to all users.”

The two single-direction bike lanes on either side of the street should be combined into a single bike highway in the center, and parking should be expanded for cyclists and taken away from drivers, per the Transportation Alternatives report, released late last month. Centralizing the bike lanes, and creating a new dedicated bus lane, would cut down on buses crossing cyclists’ paths, which now happens constantly. Also, to make the street safe for the office workers, students,



A rendering shows the two-way bike path Transportation Alternatives wants to run down the Brooklyn Bridge side of Jay Street, then down the center starting outside of City Tech. Also visible is the expanded pedestrian island the group wants in the middle of Tillary Street.

and residents constantly crossing it, red lights need to last longer, and there needs to be more of a pedestrian island in the middle of busy Tillary Street instead of the thin concrete strip that is currently there, the advocates say.

Dramatically changing the layout of streets such as Jay Street and Atlantic Avenue is something that has to happen if Mayor DeBlasio’s Vision Zero push to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2024 is going to succeed, an organizer with the group said.

“If we are going to talk about making our neighborhood and communities safer,



The battle for Brooklyn’s byways

we have to push for a complete redesign of the most dangerous streets,” Luke Ohlson said.

Changing the physical landscape only goes so far on a street plagued by double-parking, jaywalking, reckless cycling, and illegal U-turns, and, the report says, the overhaul must be accompanied by ramped-up traffic and parking enforcement to be effective.

The recommendations

came out of a series of brainstorming sessions and group strolls along problem streets.

“It’s been a painstaking process, but it definitely feels like momentum is building in many quarters,” said Eric McClure, a Transportation Alternatives volunteer and long-time road-safety activist.

The next step is convincing the Department of Transportation to take a look at a Jay Street redesign. The agency did not respond to comment requests.

Borough President Adams’s office said he hasn’t had a chance to figure out how he feels about the report’s recommendations.

Jay Street got its current bike lanes in 2008.



Apparent blood stains where a hit-and-run driver struck and killed a man on Monday night still sullied the crosswalk on Tuesday.

Deadly hit-and-run

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

A hit-and-run driver struck and killed a man on Flatbush Avenue Extension at DeKalb Avenue on Monday night, according to police.

Officers found 34-year-old Latchman Singh unconscious in the crosswalk of the busy intersection between Junior’s

Restaurant, Long Island University, and Applebee’s at 7:47 pm, cops said. Emergency medical personnel took the Queens man to Kings County Hospital Center, where a doctor pronounced him dead on arrival, police said.

The driver fled the scene and an investigation is ongoing, officials said.



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West Coast bests Nets

Brooklyn’s strong start went up in smoke on the road

I’ve had mornings, especially as a younger bird, when I woke up on the wrong side of the nest after wetting my beak around town, unsure of where I am or how I flew there. Head pounding. Moaning. Hunting for half-finished Gatorade bottles and pieces of banana. Reconstructing a jumble of half-memories. Wondering what happened to that good-looking hen from the after-hours spot.

But the worst of that mess doesn’t compare to what our Nets must have felt on the flight back from Portland this weekend. The players went out West for three games that could have proved them as legitimate contenders this season, and came back with egg on their faces (That’s a metaphor, but I do know some fellow fowl who might be tempted). They blew a 19-point lead in Phoenix, gave up 66 points in the first half to Golden State, and shot 1–19 from three-point range in Portland.

It was no easy trip on my bum wing, but I made the return flight to Brooklyn, stopping only to sleep at an old pal’s pad in Chicago, and man-

aged to get back to Barclays on Monday. No sooner had the ball been tipped than I regretted cutting my West Coast vacation short. Our boys stumbled through an ugly loss to the Heat, a team they beat four times during the regular season last year, back when the



Miami was home to a guy named LeBron James.

But I could see this trainwreck coming before Brooklyn even set foot on the left coast. I’m talking about Joe Johnson’s comments after the Nets’ Nov. 9 win over Orlando, which at the time gave the team a tidy 4–2 record.

“I just think guys kind of exhaust their options and then when there’s nothing else for them, then they’ll pass it when they have to,” Joe reportedly said. “For the most part, we’ve been very selfish. Four and two, I mean, it’s pretty good, but I wouldn’t say it’s where we want to be right now against teams that aren’t playoff teams.”



Neither Chris Bosh, left, nor Joe Johnson made out well in this exchange, but Bosh’s Heat embarrassed the Nets at home on Monday.

Hold up. First of all, Joe, the Nets won the game that prompted those comments. No need to harsh everyone’s melow. Yes, the Nets had yet to beat a team with a winning record, so tempering any excitement over those early victories wasn’t a bad idea. But if the thought process was, as a veteran, that you wanted to hold your teammates’ egos in check, you could have kept that drama in-house. I’m assuming you were targeting Brook Lopez, as the Big Lug has a tendency to slow down the offense — why not talk it out like human men over a beer at Freddy’s?

Secondly: Joe Johnson is accusing people of not passing the ball enough? The man known as “Iso Joe” for his love of handling the ball in isolation from the rest of the team, before launching jumpers? Is this some sort of joke that doesn’t translate to us winged folk?

It’s true that in the first half of the Phoenix game the Nets squad moved the ball better and played one of its best offensive halves of the year. But when things took a turn for the worse, “Iso Joe” was in rare form, dribbling around while everyone looked on before chucking up shots. If Joe is going to talk the talk, he needs to do the pigeon. If not, I’ll continue to squawk the squawk.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to spill my drink on Jason Kidd. Speaking of which, spare a buck for a beer?

Breakup news

Ratner buys out partner at modular-tower factory

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

It’s official: Forest City Ratner and its Swedish contractor are divorced.

The developer has bought out Skanska at the Navy Yard factory where the two companies had made pieces for the modular B2 tower, the first residential building of the megadevelopment formerly known

as Atlantic Yards. Work on the 32-story building at Flatbush Avenue and Dean Street halted at 10 stories when Skanska furloughed the factory’s 157 workers and sued Forest City, claiming problems with its Lego-like design are responsible for \$50 million in cost overruns, which Forest City blames on Skanska.

In court documents, executives at the Swedish con-



The seasons have changed since this photo was shot, but B2 still looks the same.

struction giant allege that the completed tower might leak. Forest City denied the claims and filed a counter-suit, saying Skanska isn’t living up to its contract.

The two had created a joint

company to oversee work at the Navy Yard facility. The buyout price was not disclosed.

A Forest City spokesman said the company will try to rehire out-of-work factory staffers and reboot produc-

tion soon.

The deal does not appear to involve the majority owner of the rest of the planned megadevelopment at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, the Chinese-government-owned Greenland.

Greenland bought a 70-percent stake in all of the proposed 16-building complex except for B2 and the Barclays Center.

The court battle over the cost overruns is ongoing, but since Skanska terminated its construction contract the lawsuit should not hold up work at B2.

Greenland and Forest City have asked people to start referring to the project as “Pacific Park.”

age 44 age 43 age 48

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Brooklyn actor and producer Paul “Paulie” Bomba created a parody of a recent tourism video by “New York Global Ambassador” Taylor Swift, aiming to set the record straight about his city.

Very Swift satire

Parody videos welcome you to Noo Yawk

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

Taylor Swift as New York City’s “Global Welcome Ambassador?” Fuggedaboutit! Brooklyn native and authentic New Yorker Paul Bomba was so dismayed by the idea of a white-bread pop singer from rural Pennsylvania representing his city to the world that the actor-producer created a series of videos lampooning the tourism bureau’s recently released clips of Swift explaining the Big Apple to wide-eyed denizens of fly-over territory.

“The bottom line is, I want people to experience New York for what New York is, not some hyper-sanitized version of what some tourism board deems to be the appropriate perspective on the city,” said Bomba, who grew up in Gravesend and now lives in Borough Park.



The irony of Swift trying to explain a bodega from the roof of her Tribeca penthouse was not lost on Bomba, who insists that a corner store is really only called a bodega in a Latino neighborhood — a nuance the Tay Sway set will never even pick up on.

“If you’re visiting New

York City and watching a Taylor Swift video, you’re probably not going to go somewhere where there’s a bodega,” he said.

Days after the city dubbed Swift the day tripper’s diplomat, Bomba snapped up the “globalambassador.nyc” domain and got a friend to design a snarky copy of the city’s tourism site to host the parodies.

Bomba conscripted two friends, comedians Brianne Berkson of Manhattan and Tommy Ray of Queens, to act in the video with him.

“They’re both tried-and-true New Yorkers,” Bomba said. “They loved the idea and signed up without even reading the script.”

The videos outline their bodega position, explain

that there is no such thing as a “cheese slice,” and warn that asking for ranch dressing on your pizza may get you slapped.

The filmmaker plans to keep the gag going and aims to release more videos on subjects such as subway etiquette, which natives and newcomers alike could benefit from, he said.

And if you’re wondering whether “Paulie” really sounds like he does in the video, it’s all an act. But it’s also an homage to his old neighborhood.

“I’m a classically trained actor, and I’ve done tremendous amount of work to deal with my accent, but it’s always fun to fall back into what I hear on Avenue U,” he said.

Boys with boobs on the brain

What I love about having older kids are the really interesting topics of conversation that start from out of nowhere while walking down the street.

Like the one me and Oscar had the other day as we walked back to school from the doctor.

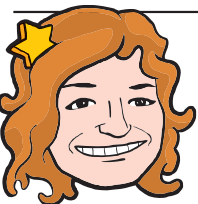
“How come if boobs are just big blobs of fat, they’re so interesting?” he asked.

I don’t skip a beat, as I have thought about this a lot.

“Because we are animals, and our instincts from the beginning are to turn to boobs for sustenance, for milk,” I said. “It’s a natural desire.”

It’s funny that my son brought this up when he did — just before my editor reported to me that my most popular column ever is the one where I wrote about how my boys loved my boobs.

Apparently, it is a popular topic. In a much-read story



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

on Huffington Post aptly titled “Breasts: The real reason men love them,” Larry Young and Brian Alexander explain it better than I did.

“Fascination with breasts,” they say, “is an unconscious evolutionary drive prompting us to activate powerful bonding circuits that help create a loving, nurturing bond.”

It starts with infants, whose suckling stimulates oxytocin and dopamine to get a mother focused and forging a bond with the baby, they say. Then that same bonding circuitry gets replicated later with lovers.

I like that my son is think-

ing about this stuff, questioning and delving into the backstory behind desire. It is a lifelong quest, really, figuring what drives us to feel the things we feel, sexually or emotionally, understanding that we are sometimes just pawns in a game carefully orchestrated without our input. It helps to understand human instincts, though clearly it is important to learn that those instincts must be mitigated somewhat to live in polite society.

Sexuality is hard to explain, and as my boys get closer and closer to the point of exploring this question on their own, I

am forced to think about it.

Hmmm. Sexuality. I remember dreams of kissing a boy in the third grade, I remember spin the bottle in sixth, I remember my first kiss after school in my room in seventh, then moving further along in the back of a car in eighth, further still in ninth. I waited until college to go all the way, mostly because I reasoned it was hard to go back once you’d gone there, and the one person I was close enough to do it in high school with was an exchange student who I knew was headed home to Sweden forever.

But my desire and need for bonding, physically speaking, has been a constant since my early days, as I imagine it is for most everyone, including my boys.

How then to advise them?

I hear tales from friends now of their children’s first

kisses, and even likely first intercourse, and I want to cheer. I applaud the ability to forge intimate bonds (keeping proper safety precautions in mind) because it is hard, always, from the first time right on through marriage, to do intimacy well. A lot is at play with the desire and ability to intertwine with another human being and to allow one’s self to get lost slightly in the very natural but often very scary world of sex.

It is like a drug, a rush of dopamine that is as addictive as any of the most illegal substances. Although I didn’t say it to him yet, my still-innocent 11-year-old, the boobs are just the beginning. Care needs to be taken with who one chooses as a partner for this grand experiment, and how, but it is a positive thing, a natural thing, to seek the pleasure of another person’s body.

And that will always be my mantra.

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE TIER 1 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CROSS HARBOR FREIGHT PROGRAM

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) have prepared a Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate alternatives to improve the movement of goods in the region by enhancing the transportation of freight across New York Harbor. The Cross Harbor Freight Program (CHFP) would provide near-term and long-term improvements to the regional freight network by reducing truck traffic congestion, improving air quality, and providing economic benefits.

The DEIS was prepared in compliance with applicable federal environmental laws, rules, and regulations, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), and Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” among others, and identifies permits or approvals that may be required for the implementation of the Build Alternatives identified therein.

AVAILABILITY: The DEIS is now available on the project’s website at www.crossharborstudy.com. Printed or electronic copies are also available at the following viewing locations during normal business hours:

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Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424

COMMENTS: Written comments on the Tier 1 DEIS should be provided on or before 5:00PM, February 27, 2015. Public hearings are scheduled to occur in late January and early February 2015 in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island in New York; and Newark and Jersey City in New Jersey. For further details, please reference the CHFP Web site at: www.crossharborstudy.com

Comments or additional information on the Tier 1 DEIS can be submitted in multiple ways:
Mailed directly to Cross Harbor Freight Program, c/o InGroup, Inc. P.O. Box 206, Midland Park, NJ 07432; submitted electronically through the crossharborstudy.com Web site; submitted electronically via email to crossharborstudy@ingroupinc.com with “Tier 1 DEIS Comment” in the Subject line; or provided orally or in writing at the in-person public hearing(s).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mark D. Hoffer, Director, New Port Initiatives/Port Commerce Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, 225 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10003, Telephone: 212-435-7276, Fax: 212-435-4201

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